

IN THE CLAIMS

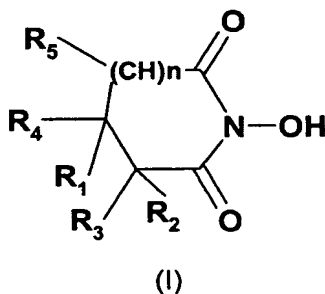
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of at least one compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins, in a composition applied topically to the skin, as an agent for~~ A process of preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the an orange-peel appearance comprising:

applying topically to the skin a composition, in a physiologically acceptable medium,  
comprising at least one compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds  
between two proteins.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Use~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said proteins are Amadori products formed as a result of the Maillard reaction.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Use~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~or 2,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking  
bonds between two proteins is a N-hydroxy imide chosen from (a) the compounds of formula  
(I):



~~in which~~ wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each a hydrogen atom or together form a bond;

$R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  independently represent a hydrogen atom; or a linear, branched or cyclic  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl radical, or an aryl group or a heterocycle, which may be substituted with one or more groups X chosen from: a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical and a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -F, -CN, -CH<sub>2</sub>OR, and -OCH<sub>2</sub>O-, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl radical or an aryl group, it being understood that two adjacent groups X may form a ring with the atoms to which they are attached,

or  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , and/or  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, -ORa, -SRa, -NRaRb or -COORa groups in which Ra and Rb independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl radical;

n is 0 or 1,

and (b) the organic or mineral salts thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 0$  and  $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R_4 = H$ .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 0$ ,  $R_3 = R_4 = H$  and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a bond.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 0$ ,  $R_3$  is a phenyl group,  $R_4 = H$  and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a bond.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 0$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a bond and  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  together form an aromatic ring.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Use~~ The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 1$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a bond,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  together form an aromatic ring and  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  together form an aromatic ring.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Use~~ The process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $n = 1$  and  $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R_4 = R_5 = H$ .

**Claim 10 (Canceled): Cosmetic process for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the “orange-peel” appearance, comprising the topical application to the skin of a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one N-hydroxy imide as defined in any of Claims 3 to 9.**

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claim 10, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the said N-hydroxy imide represents from 0.1% to 2% of the total weight of the composition.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that it is intended~~ Claim 1, for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin associated with the glycation of dermal proteins.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12, characterized in that it is intended~~ Claim 1, for preventing or treating the loss of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~Claim 10 or 11,~~  
~~characterized in that it is intended~~ Claim 1, for preventing or combating the signs of photo-  
ageing of the skin.

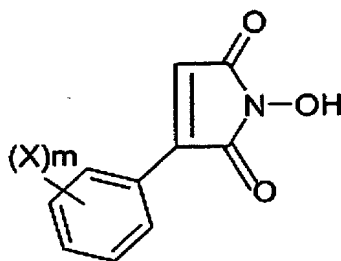
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 14,  
~~characterized in that it is intended~~ for preventing or combating wrinkles and/or pigmentation  
marks.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~  
~~10 to 13, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to individuals with  
a lack of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~Claim 10 or 11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to individuals with cellulite.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~  
~~10, 11, 14 and 15, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to  
individuals presenting signs of photo-ageing, ~~in particular wrinkles and/or pigmentation~~  
marks.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Compounds of general formula (II):



(II)

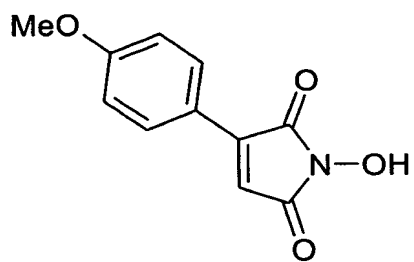
in which wherein:

X independently represents ~~a group chosen from:~~ a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical; or a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -F or -CN, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical or an aryl group; and

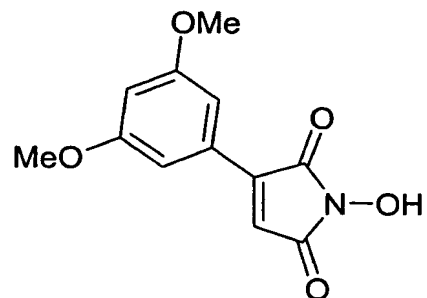
m is an integer ranging from 1 to 5,

it being understood that two adjacent groups X on the ring may together form an -OCH<sub>2</sub>O- bond.

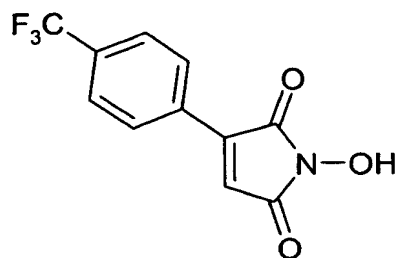
Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Compound~~ The compound according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that it corresponds~~ corresponding to one of the following chemical formulae (a) to (k):



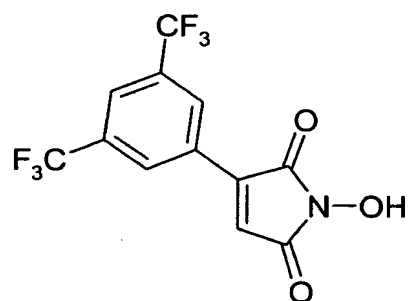
(a)



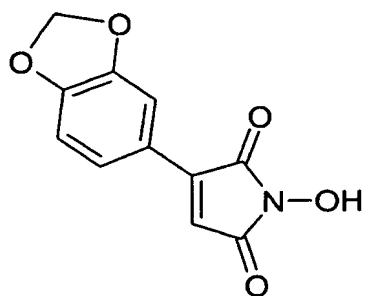
(d)



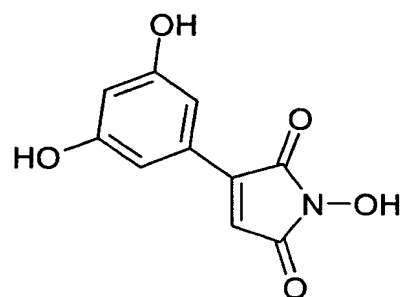
(b)



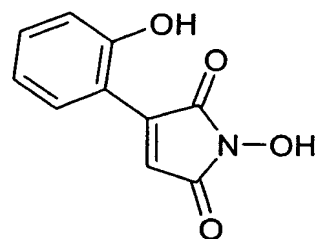
(e)



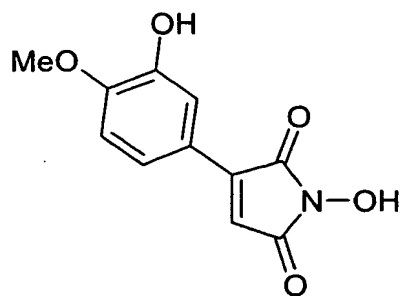
(c)



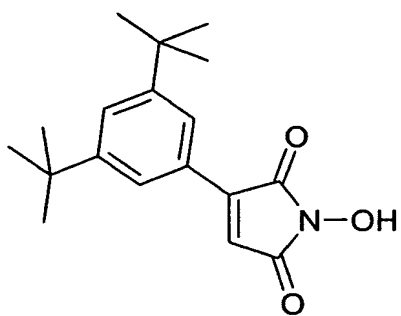
(f)



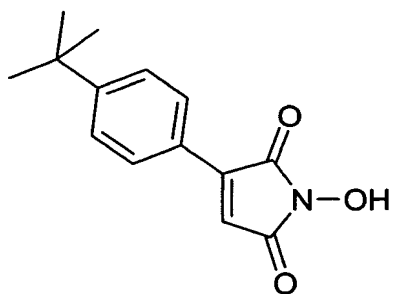
(g)



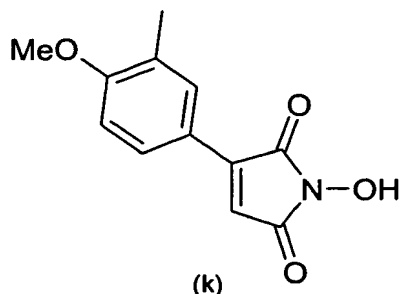
(h)



(i)



(j)



(k)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition containing~~ A composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one compound according to Claim 19 ~~or 20~~.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that it is suitable~~ for topical application to the skin.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to Claim 21 ~~or 22, characterized in that it also contains~~ further comprising at least one compound ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of: desquamating agents and/or moisturizers; depigmenting agents; agents for stimulating fibroblast proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte differentiation; dermo-decontracting agents; tensioning agents; anti-pollution agents or free-radical scavengers; and lipolytic active agents or active agents for reducing adipose tissue.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 21 to 23, characterized in that it also contains~~ Claim 21, further comprising at least one UVA-active and/or UVB-active organic photo-protective agent and/or a mineral photo-protective agent.